

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104464

STADIS/////////
TO AMBASSAD SNEIDER FROM RICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, KS, US

SUBJECT: PL-480/CCC/LONG-TERM SUPPLY

REFS: (A) SEOUL 3267, (B) STATE 101015, (C) SEOUL 3257,
(D) STATE 29745, (E) STATE 33855, (F) STATE 27405,
(G) STATE 98791

1. THE FOLLOWING IS DESIGNED TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE
CURRENT STATUS OF THE PL 480, CCC AND LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITY SUPPLY THINKING HERE IN WASHINGTON. SOME
KEY MESSAGES HAVE PASSED EACH OTHER, AND CLEARANCE DELAYS
HAVE ALSO ADDED TO THE PROBLEM.

2. PL 480: WITH THE DELIVERY OF YOUR SECOND LETTER TO
DPM NAM (PER REF A), WE ASSUME SIDE-LETTER ISSUE HAS BEEN
LAID TO REST AND WE CAN PROCEED WITH WORKING OUT THE
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DETAILS OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT. ALTHOUGH USDA IS REVIEWING
COTTON FIGURES (PER REF B), YOUR CONCLUSION THAT PROGRAMM-
ING OF COTTON IS UNLIKELY IS CORRECT (REF C). USDA IS
REVIEWING THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN REF C, AND YOU WILL
BE GETTING A RESPONSE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. AFTER THAT, IF
THE ROKG PROVIDES US WITH A FIRM COMMODITY MIX WE SHOULD BE
ABLE TO GIVE YOU AUTHORITY TO SIGN THE FIRST AMENDMENT IN

ABOUT THREE WEEKS. FROM WHERE WE STAND, IT APPEARS

THAT A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE DELAY (ASIDE FROM POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS) WAS THE LONG DELAY OF THE ROKG TO COME UP WITH THE COMMODITY MIX REQUESTED REF D. OF COURSE, WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE COTTON PROBLEM AT THAT TIME.

3. CCC CREDITS: ESSENTIALLY, THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE DIFFICULTY FOR KOREA TO GET ALL THE CCC CREDIT IT WANTS OR REQUIRES. WHILE USDA SEES POSSIBLE POLITICAL DANGERS IN CCC-TO-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS, HAVING HAD PROBLEMS WITH THIS ELSEWHERE ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC CHARGES OF PROFIT "SKIMMING," THE DECISION IS UP TO THE ROKG ON WHAT RULES IT WISHES TO MAKE FOR CCC ELIGIBILITY IN KOREA. THE USG DOES NOT DETERMINE WHO, IN A GIVEN COUNTRY, IS AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE CREDITS. THE ROKG MUST MAKE THAT DETERMINATION.

4. LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS: ESSENTIALLY YOU HAVE THE CLEARED USG POSITION ON LONG-TERM SUPPLY CONTAINED IN REFS E AND F AS CLARIFIED BY REF G. USDA IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A STAFF STUDY (AS NOTED REF B) ON THE GLOBAL ASPECTS OF LONG-TERM SECURITY FOOD SUPPLY, AND WHEN ITS POSITION IS DETERMINED, WE CAN BETTER ADDRESS ROK INTERESTS.
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5. I HOPE THIS GIVES YOU A FEEL FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH USDA AND OTHER AGENCIES ON THE DETAILS, AND KEEP YOU INFORMED. VANCE

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